

# WIRED

MAX EASTLEY

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## **Dead Child Attack**

QUARTERSTICK CD

When Slint reformed for some live shows a couple of years ago, they were augmented by Michael McMahan and Todd Cook, on guitar and bass respectively. Dave Pajo, guitarist in the original line-up, enjoyed playing with them so much that the three have cooked up Dead Child. Despite the spotless post-rock credentials of the Quarterstick label and Pajo (Aerial M, Papa M, Stereolab, Tortoise, Royal Trux), *Attack* is a Heavy Metal album free of any formalist cross-pollinations or ironic quote marks. Instead it's a heads-down charge through the full vocabulary of Metal from Pajo's high school years: early 80s Iron Maiden, Metallica and Judas Priest. It's interesting to hear just how sonically tamed, or simply absorbed, this sound has become, as later genre developments left it behind: the snare is not pitched up to make it heard over a bulldozing bass, and vocalist Dahm actually sings rather than simply uses throat-shreddingly bestial growls. The result is – morbid track titles like "Twitch Of The Death Nerve" aside – effectively a celebratory keg-party record.